Remarks

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 13, 18 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-21 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-10, 13 and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 7,369,665) in view of Markre (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,317). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Cheng in view of Markre.

Cheng discloses a system and method for mixing sound signals is provided in which a mixer buffer stores sample values for three or more sound channels, each sound channel including a main sound component and one or more auxiliary sound components. Send paths are provided for sending the auxiliary sound components for each sound channel to a sound effects processor and return paths from the sound effects processor are provided for respectively adding the effects-processed auxiliary sound components for each channel to the corresponding main sound component. See Cheng at Abstract.

Markre discloses a synchronous serial protocol is used to transfer data from a host processor to multiple CODECs operating at differing speeds and from such CODECs back to the host processor across a bidirectional pair of serial links. A link speed fast enough to accommodate all operating CODECs is utilized. Frames are transmitted across the bidirectional pair of serial links controlled by frame sync and bit clock signals. Each frame has a control word of validity bits followed by one data word for each active CODEC. The validity bits determine whether the corresponding data word contains valid data for or from the corresponding CODEC. See Markre at Abstract.

Claim 1 of the present application recites receiving a frame signal indicating additional commands are to be transmitted from a command buffer to a codec and generating a pace signal, in response to receiving the frame signal, to block the additional commands from the command buffer to the codec. Applicant submits that neither Cheng nor Markre disclose or suggest generating a pace signal to block additional commands from a command buffer to a codec in response to receiving a frame signal. Therefore, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over a combination Cheng and Markre since neither reference discloses or suggests such a feature.

Independent claims 7, 13 and 18 include limitations similar to those in claim 1. Thus, claims 7, 13 and 18 are also patentable over Cheng in view of Markre for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Markre in view of "The High-Level Entity Management System" by Craig Partridge and Glenn Trewitt (henceforth known as Partridge et al.). Further, claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng and Markre in view of Winkler et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0024948). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over any combination of Cheng, Markre, Partridge and Winkler since none of the references disclose or suggest generating a pace signal to block additional commands from a command buffer to a codec in response to receiving a frame signal.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: <u>December 4, 2008</u>

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